

# TRANSITION INITIATIVES FOR STABILIZATION

## DAI Quarterly Report

### January - March, 2013



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COVER IMAGE: Bander-Beyla community event (Abdalla Dahir)



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# It is not the end of the journey

**“Today is a milestone - it is not the end of the journey - but it is an important milestone towards that end,”** announced former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, as the United States recognized the Somali government for the first time in 22 years.

This recognition was indeed an important milestone. Just two months later, and the United Nations Security Council suspended an arms embargo allowing the Government to legally buy small arms in defense against militia.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud continued to expand Somalia’s international presence and attended the third Arab Economic and Social Development Summit in Saudi Arabia, made an official visit to the European Union, welcomed ambassadors from over 10 countries to Mogadishu and accredited Somali Ambassadors covering five European nations.

Internally, Somali Government representatives tried to instil federalism by reforming the administration in Hiiraan, changing leadership in Bay’s capital and officially announcing the road linking Mogadishu and Baidoa as open and safe. The Government also strengthened ties with Puntland and a formal agreement was signed to improve coordination, security and to encourage federalism.

However, insecurity persisted along the Somali/Kenyan border as Al Shabaab ambushed Garbaharey and Busaar, and still had notable presence in Baardheere, Jilib, and Faafax Dhuun. Somaliland was also on high alert and the British Government issued a travel warning after intelligence warned of Al Shabaab attacks. Shortly after this warning, 11 Shabaab suspects were arrested and a sack of explosives uncovered in Hargeisa.

Throughout January and February, tension over the disputed Sool and Sanaag region also caused a headache for the Somaliland Government, and Somaliland’s military was deployed to apprehend Khatumo State militia after they tried to attack a Somaliland base in Hudun.

Over the next few months, Somalia’s story will continue to evolve, as African Union troops get more funding to re-capture new districts and critical talks over new state formation, such as Jubaland, take place. It is not the end of the journey, but the journey towards stabilization and development is certainly gaining momentum.

Transition Initiatives for Stabilization (TIS) is a quick impact, results driven program promoting peace in Somalia. To ensure lasting stabilization, TIS promotes Somali-ownership and aims to build confidence between government institutions and its citizens by improving public services. TIS is implemented by Development Alternatives Inc (DAI) in Somaliland, Puntland, along the Somali border and in central Somalia. This quarterly report highlights TIS-DAI's results, challenges and lessons learnt between January and March 2013.

At the end of March 2013, TIS-DAI had 192 grants in implementation worth US\$ 14,603,052, of which 13 grants worth US\$847,835 were closed and 36 grants worth US\$3,078,606 were pending.

## Key activities

**198,712**

people engaged in peace and reconciliation activities;

**411**

local employment opportunities created;

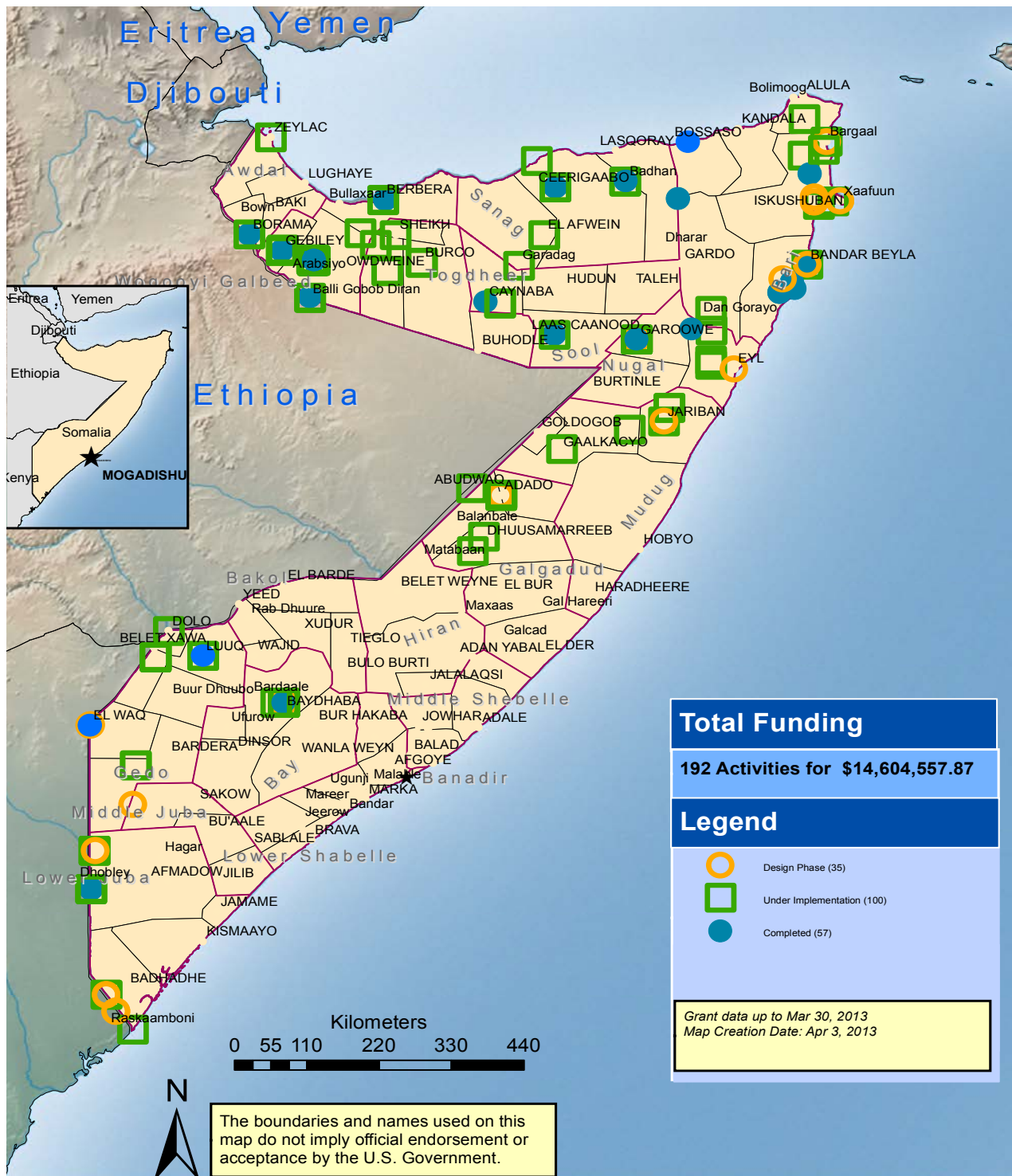
**17**

celebratory events facilitated to promote government service delivery;

**4**

sub-national entities assisted to improve performance.

# Geographical coverage





# Results

**“For the last 20 years we did not have a safe place for women to give birth. Now we have this fully equipped facility, it will be utilized by women from both the Marehan and Garre clan, which will unify our town.”** El Wak resident, Mrs Calaso

The Transition Initiatives for Stabilization (TIS) program mitigates conflict by giving Somali community and government representatives the opportunity to design and implement targeted activities that increase stabilization.

This quarter, TIS trained 10 peacemakers in social reconciliation, supported regional harmony in Borama, provided Somaliland’s Ministry of Interior with land cruisers to enable remote access to conflict-zones and procured agricultural equipment for Bander-Beyla to provide an alternative livelihood to piracy.

## From East to West

Based on their peacebuilding and social reconciliation credentials, 12 participants from Las Anod and Borama were selected to participate in a cross-community exposure meeting. Las Anod is situated on the contested border between Somaliland and Puntland, and political and violent conflict over power and resources has destabilized the region.

Borama, however, enjoys relative stability. Located next to the Ethiopian and Djiboutian border, residents are benefiting from trade and community cohesion.

Facilitated by TIS and in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, Las Anod residents

travelled to Borama so they could experience the possibility of peace and engage with other communities on how to overcome conflict.

## Reducing the appeal of piracy

On January 14, TIS supplied farm tractors, ploughs, 95 generators and water pipes to the Bander-Beyla administration. Community and government representatives chose to prioritize agricultural equipment to encourage legitimate business and provide an alternative livelihood to piracy.

95 farmers from Dhuur, Dhuudo, Qotonm, Beyla and Aris villages will benefit from the new equipment. This equal, non-biased distribution increased confidence in unprejudiced governance.

The new farming equipment will also increase food production and trade. “We had been cultivating and watering land for two months, but now with this equipment, we can do the same job in just two hours,” said Abdi Mohamed Ali, a farmer from Dhuur.





### Supporting women peacemakers

TIS is facilitating an 18-month peacebuilding program for ten Somali women recognized for their leadership potential. Modules in conflict analysis, understanding trauma, restorative justice and conflict mediation skills are being taught in Somaliland, America, Liberia and Kenya.

In March, the Somali participants joined women from the Solomon Islands and Fiji in a five day course in Liberia on peacebuilding. “Women, whatever their background, are united in common challenges and want the same solutions,” said Nura, a participant from Somaliland. Referring to her experience living in a male-dominated society she added: “Men are the decision-makers and policy-formers in Somalia. But this needs to change.”

However, women do possess great power in Somalia; the power to create or mitigate conflict. “If a woman marries from a different clan – which is very common – and there are problems in the marriage, it can create wider clan conflict. That is why women have an important role,” Nura affirms. Both Nura and Marian (above) will go back to Somaliland and Puntland and pass on their conflict mitigation and focus group facilitation skills to other women. “I will educate my peers, my friends and my community on cycles of violence and how to improve mediation efforts,” says Marian as she boards a plane to Bossaso.





ON AIR

### Promoting peace through media

The Ministry of Information in Hargeisa hosts Somaliland's largest media outlets: Radio Hargeisa and Somaliland National TV. Over 200 staff regularly produce daily entertainment, news and educational programs. However, their equipment is out-dated and there is not enough space for offices and radio studios. Supporting accurate, responsible journalism is critical for sustaining peace, and for this reason, community and government officials chose to rehabilitate five studios, including an archive room, two offices and a conference hall.

"The media is very important because they have the power to create and eliminate a problem," said Mukhtar Ahmed from the Ministry of Information. "The newly constructed space will help us accommodate our staff and improve the quality of our work," added the Minister of Information at the celebratory launch.

Over 100 people gathered to witness the opening of the newly constructed extension, together with the Minister of Information and General Director of the Ministry.

"With this initiative, the Ministry now has the space for different reporters to work in different studios, unlike before when we had to wait for our turn," added a radio producer.



### Uniting clans on the Kenyan/Somali border

Geographically divided between Somalia and Kenya, El Wak is inhabited by the Marehan and Garre clans in Somalia, and the Garre clan in Kenya. Conflict over limited resources often results in hostility between the two clans: “On the Kenyan side, they have a health center, with maternity care. I am from the Marehan clan and cannot access these facilities when we are fighting with the Garre. Not being able to access services only aggravates the conflict,” says one woman.

To increase stability along the border, TIS facilitated a planning session bringing community and government officials together to choose activities that would best increase stabilization. The construction of a maternity ward and community hall was prioritized to improve public services, thus mitigating conflict and enhancing integration.

Over 200 people gathered to watch traditional dancers mark the official opening of a maternity ward and community hall. Speaking at the event, El Wak resident Mrs Calaso said: “For the last 20 years we did not have a safe place for women to give birth. Now we have this fully equipped facility, it will be utilized by women from both the Marehan and Garre clan, which will unify our town.”



## “The local administration will continue to ensure public services are at the doorstep of every resident,”

Bander-Beyla Mayor after celebrating six new activities to increase service delivery

TIS is strengthening and building confidence in 31 sub-national government institutions through improved service delivery. With 192 activities in implementation, including the construction of government buildings, markets and roads, TIS is working to promote social cohesion between government institutions and its constituents.

The TIS program increases confidence in governance by attributing activities to government institutions, rather than USAID or DAI. This quarter, TIS facilitated 17 celebratory events to promote government service delivery, including traditional dance in El Wak, ribbon openings in Somaliland and school competitions in Bander-Beyla.

### Increasing mobility and trade in Puntland

“The previously difficult, and sometimes impassable, Jariban-Garcaad road has been gravelled which has lessened travel time and reduced the price of commodities by 10 per cent because the transportation of goods is less than it was before,” said a Garacad resident.

This quarter, a 5.5 km gravel road was constructed in Jariban and a 4km road between Hoosingaabo and Baargaal. Inaccessibility to commercial cities, such as Bossaso and Galkayo, previously increased the price of commodities in rural towns and made trade difficult, but now public accessibility, and subsequently confidence in governance, will increase.

### Professionalizing local administrations

Synonymous with Somaliland’s largest prison and police training center, Mandera is a town rich in history and minerals. Despite its central role in Somaliland security, community disputes and conflict is common. Mandera is apart of the disputed Sahil region, which recently experienced a wave of demonstrations from dissatisfied residents contesting local election results.

With an increasing population of over 24,000 people, and only one small, dilapidated room as an office, the local administration struggles to maintain law and order. For this reason, community and government representatives from Mandera chose to construct a local administration office. This quarter the administration office was completed and fully furnished with four offices and one conference hall.

“We used to have one makeshift room, too small to accommodate our staff and serve our people, but now we have a facility that will help us improve services and garner public respect,” said Mandera’s Deputy Mayor.

Over 200 people gathered to witness the opening of the local administration office, together with the Minister of Interior and Governor of Sahil. At the event, a community elder said: “With these initiatives, the Government will have the capacity to address clan conflict and insecurity. This construction is perfect timing as we are in desperate need of an administration with the capacity to govern our town.”





### Celebrating for the first time in 21 years

Women danced, rejoiced, sang and laughed. For the first time in 21 years, Bander-Beyla held a celebratory event marking the end of piracy and alienation. Over 1,000 residents in their most vibrant dresses and ceremonial shawls, arrived to watch the official opening of new services. “This celebration reminded me of when we had peace. Piracy robbed us of our freedom, our businesses. This event shows us that we have combated piracy and reclaimed our independence,” said resident Hersi Ahmed at the event.

Facilitated by the TIS program, the Mayor of Bander-Beyla officially handed over a new administration block, women’s center, school, clinic, cliff barriers and agricultural equipment to his community. “The local administration will continue to strive to make sure public services are at the doorstep of every resident,” announced the Mayor at the event.

The increase in services is already boosting trade in Bander-Beyla. Since the school and health clinic were constructed, the population has increased and businesses have begun to thrive.

# HIGHLIGHTS

**420**

**people participated in community events in Somaliland to celebrate government service delivery;**

**302**

**government officials will benefit from new regional offices in Somaliland;**

**150**

**women benefited from the construction of two market canopies in Hargeisa;**

**20**

**displaced youth were empowered through the provision of baking equipment in Puntland;**

**7**

**local administration offices were constructed in Somaliland;**

**4**

**furnished offices were handed over to the Baargaal administration which will benefit 130,000 people;**

**3**

**land cruisers delivered to ministries in Somaliland allowing them to respond rapidly to conflict prone hotspots.**



# Women's center in Bander-Beyla



Before construction



Bid opening



Preparing the site



Construction supervision



Completion



Furnished and in use



IT equipment installed



Celebration of women's center in February 2013



# 95

farmers increased their food production capacity as a result of new agricultural equipment in Bander-Beyla.



**“The bid committee, which constitutes both community representatives and government officials, is conducted publicly. This rules out suspicion and builds the credibility of the government.”**

Dahir Keif, Puntland Minister for Public Works

The TIS program promotes consensus between government and communities by providing a space for collaboration. TIS brings communities together to assess localized conflict and jointly design, implement, evaluate and promote peacebuilding activities. During the process, consensus is cultivated and collaborative relationships are formed between governments, civil society and the private sector.

### Active community involvement

Nepotism and favouritism are widespread in Somalia and often aggravate conflict. Minority clans are not given equal opportunity and tenders can be manipulated to favour those already in power. To instil transparency and fairness, TIS ensures all tenders are advertised publicly and awarded against a strict set of criteria by a diverse panel comprising DAI staff, government and community representatives.

TIS conducted a bid opening for a road construction in Eyl, a remote coastal town in Puntland. One of the residents who is active in challenging bidders who do not follow the rules commented: “This is an inclusive, comprehensive process that shows ownership and healthy competition. It ensures we get the best possible product.” As Eyl resident Abdinoor shows above, communities are often very active and conversant with the contracting process to ensure fairness and integrity. The contracting process builds government-community relationships to mitigate conflict: “The bid committee, which constitutes both community representatives and government officials, is conducted publicly. This rules out suspicion and builds the credibility of the government,” said Dahir Keif, Puntland Minister for Public Works, during the bid opening in Eyl.







# Coordination

The TIS program realizes the importance of coordination for improved and sustainable programming and DAI continues to ramp up its coordination with other organizations.

## Somaliland

In Somaliland, the TIS-DAI Hargeisa team is actively involved in monthly peacebuilding coordination meetings chaired by the Ministry of Interior and involving the Danish Refugee Council, Danish Demining Group and CARE International. As TIS launches a new phase of programming in Sool and Sanaag, DAI is also coordinating with Finnish Church Aid who are facilitating conflict resolution conferences in the region. DAI is formulating a framework so its quick-impact programming is compatible and sustained through the community and Finnish Church Aid's programming.

## Puntland

During this quarter, the TIS-DAI team also became a member of a community peace and safety working group in Puntland which is led by the Ministry of Security. The group shares experiences and activities to enhance coordination and prevent duplication. In Bander-Beyla, TIS activities were also coordinated with UNICEF and Save the Children, and as a result Save the Children is providing medical supplies to a TIS constructed clinic, and UNICEF are providing blackboards and stationary to a TIS built school in Bixin.

## Border

DAI met with GIZ's focal point for Gedo in December, and provided the German

organization with information on TIS initiatives in El Wak, Belet Hawa and Berbera. GIZ offered to provide furniture for an administration block in Belet Hawa after a Shabaab attack left the building with \$12,671 worth of damages. DAI's partnership with GIZ was confirmed this quarter and GIZ consulted with the community and will move forward with their promise to provide furniture and computer equipment to the local administration, which compliments TIS' initial investment in the district.

# Operations

## Central Government

The TIS-DAI Chief of Party and Director of Programs also improved coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Interior in Mogadishu. In January, newly appointed officials were briefed on TIS program objectives, future plans, results and current activities in south and central Somalia. Coordination between the Federal Government and DAI has increased and a central government official attends planning sessions across the border and central Somalia.

The TIS-DAI team also met with the Norwegian Refugee Council and United Nations Development delegation in Baidoa for information sharing.

TIS-DAI also became a formal member of the Nairobi-based peacebuilding coordination group for Somalia in Nairobi, Kenya.

# Challenges & lessons learnt

## Changing community priorities & adaptation

To insure community ownership and participation, TIS verifies all grants with the wider community. Whilst this is programmatically vital, it can cause delays in implementation. For example, this quarter community members in Hargeisa advocated strongly for bus stops throughout the city, instead of centrally located bus stations that were previously agreed upon.

The team learnt to be open to community changes by explaining the consequences, including possible delays, and preparing itself for flexibility and adaptation.

## Changes to local authority officials & effective communication

Many governors and local officials were reshuffled and newly appointed after Somaliland's local elections in November 2012. The TIS team had to reallocate extra time to explain the program and their respective grants.

Effective communication between new government partners and community counterparts is essential for program management and setting expectations.

## Absence of decision-makers

Due to the prolonged absence of Hargeisa's Mayor, who subsequently passed away, all

Hargeisa grants could not move forward as no one replaced the Mayor who had decision-making authority. The TIS team ensured the community and all stakeholders were aware of the delay and regularly communicated any updates.

In Las Anod, unknown gunmen shot the contractor of a TIS regional government office construction. However, once the contractor was in recovery, he appointed his Engineer as a temporary replacement, and the construction is now underway.

## Harsh environments & community ownership

Construction grants in Somaliland were affected by heavy rain this quarter. For example, the transportation of machinery from Borame to Zeila became difficult as roads were impassable. Site supervisors and construction workers also found it hard to continue work in such conditions.

The subcontractor of a 9.8km road in Xaafuun also suffered difficulties due to thick sand dunes and the unavailability of nearby gravel. There was a dispute between the contractor over the bill of quantities and his responsibilities. The community liaised with the contractor and convinced him to work out a solution that involved him using hand picked stone, which was not originally within his contract. This highlights the importance and power of community ownership.



# Moving forward

The TIS-DAI team in Hargeisa will work towards closing out Somaliland's remaining 47 grants. Next quarter, TIS-DAI will also start implementing phase two in the disputed Sool and Sanaag region.

In Puntland, the team will finalize the construction of a secondary school in Baargaal and a primary school in Goraxaad. 600 young Somalis will also be trained on livelihood skills in piracy-affected Jariban, Bander-Beyla and Xaafuun. Gravel roads in Eyl and Jariban, a market in Baargaal and the construction of the Ministry of Interior and Public Works in Garowe will also commence.

As TIS starts its second phase of programming along the Somali border, tender advertisements and bid openings will commence for 12 grants in Gedo and Lower Juba. Four grants, including a social hall and primary school in Luuq, rehabilitated government offices in Belet Hawa and a new social hall and administration office in Dollo, will be handed over to the respective grantee.

A hydro-geological survey and environment

impact assessment for the drilling of two boreholes in Dhobley and Geriley, and a water pan in Kolbio, will also commence next quarter. All grants chosen by government and community representatives in Baidoa have been given the green light to proceed and implementation will soon commence. Tenders will be advertisements and bids will be opened to construct a local administration office, sports stadium, peace committee center and women's center.

New activities will also be launched in Galgaduud. Strategically located between southern Somalia and Puntland, Galgaduud has a history dominated by clan conflict and marred by competing political regimes. Isolated due to extreme insecurity, Galgaduud still suffers sporadic suicide bomb attacks, and social services are limited.

Now that the provisional capital of Galgaduud, Dhusamareeb, is under control of the Somali Federal Government, TIS will facilitate a planning session for Abudwak, Balanbale, Hirale, Dhusamareeb and Guriceel to design stabilization activities worth \$1,200,000.



# Indicators

No	Indicator	2013 Targets		2013 Q1 actuals		2013 Q2 actuals		Accumulative total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1.1	Number of people participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation	150,000	100,000	300,159	442,934	86,788	111,924	386,947	554,858
1.2	Number of USG supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation among key actors to the conflict	40		19		1		20	
1.3	Number of sub-national entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	20		12		4		16	
1.4	Number of USG-assisted consensus-building processes resulting in an agreement	50		12		0		12	
1.5	Number of peace-building structures established or strengthened with USG assistance that engage conflict-affected citizens in peace and/or reconciliation processes	12		5		1		6	
1.6	Number of persons whose livelihood opportunities are improved as a result of USG-funded workforce development programs	5,500	500	447	0	411	0	858	0



**For more information please contact:**

**Vishalini Lawrence**  
**Chief of Party, TIS-DAI**  
**[vishalini\\_lawrence@dai.com](mailto:vishalini_lawrence@dai.com)**

